

ANNFIELD PLAIN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

DIPTON :
Printed by MASON and MORDUE, Front Street.

1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ANNFIELD
PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annfield Plain,
February, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit for your consideration the following Report upon the Health and general Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1914.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The coal producing industry, our chief source of wealth, was in a prosperous condition during the year. In common with many other industries throughout the country it became, after the declaration of the war, dislocated to some extent, but fortunately for our District this did not continue long enough to cause but the slightest stringency among the families of the workmen. Men able and willing to work can always find employment in the District.

We have no reason to think that the Guardians have been importuned for relief as a result, directly or indirectly, of the conditions brought about by the war, and although provisions have risen in price.

MILITARY MATTERS.

No Military camps or stations are established in our area, but soldiers on the march or on furlough are, as in most places, constantly in evidence. A proportionate number of the young men of the District have joined the forces, very many having shown their partiality for the Naval Reserve, and judging from those who have been home on furlough life "under canvas" seems not at all uncongenial to their health.

Summary of, and remarks of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1914.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	GENERAL REMARKS.
Dwelling houses	Foul conditions and Schools.	35 116 39	none 1 none	35 116 39	Houses in a dirty condition. Chiefly two families in one house.
Lodging-houses	...	...	none	"	none
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	"	"	"
Cowsheds	...	...	"	"	"
Bakehouses	...	...	"	"	"
Slaughter-houses	...	...	"	"	"
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	67	"	67
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	78	"	78	
Water-closets	...	23	"	23	
Defective Yard Paving	...	97	"	97	
House Drainage	Defective Traps. No Disconnection from Sewers Other Faults	31 none 130	" " " "	31 none 130	Mainly choked drains
Water Supply	...	none	"	none	Great scarcity of water during many months of the year.
Pigsties	...	2	"	2	
Animals Improperly Kept	...	11	"	11	
Offensive Trades	...	none	"	none	
Smoke Nuisances	...	"	"	"	
Other Nuisances	...	46	"	46	
Totals...	...	675	1	675	

	NUMBER.	REMARKS
II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.		
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	NONE
condemned as unfit for use .....	..	NONE
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...	5
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	...	NONE
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	...	NONE
" " found Adulterated ...	...	NONE
III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	...	NONE
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	123
Schools do. do. do.		NONE
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...	NONE
Convictions for do. do. do.		NONE
IV. GENERAL.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	75	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	75	
Ashpit privies converted into Ashclosets ...	15	
do. do. Waterclosets ..	35	
Ashclosets do. do. do.		NONE
Total number of Waterclosets in District ..	601	
do. Ashclosets do. ...	1034	
do. Ashpit privies do. ...	1267	
		25 of the houses have 5 rooms and upwards, 50 have 4 rooms and under. They are all provided with proper waterclosets, and 67 are provided with baths.

Common Lodging Houses.—The three common lodging houses have been regularly visited, they are fairly well conducted in compliance with the bye-laws, during the year frequent night visits have been paid ; there has been no overcrowding found.

Factories and Workshops.—There have been 56 visits paid to the 39 factories and workshops. Five notices were served and the defects have been remedied.

Dipton Wood Houses.—The whole of these houses, except three, have now been demolished.

Slaughter Houses.—The slaughter houses are all well conducted in compliance with the bye-laws, there having been no notices served during the year.

New Houses.—The number of new houses that have been completed and occupied during the year is 75. These figures include the Council's Housing Scheme. All the houses are provided with proper water-closets, and 67 are provided with baths.

East Pontop Cottages have been extensively repaired ; there are 48 of these cottages, 31 of which have been provided with a scullery and other out-buildings, including a water-closet and paved yard. In the case of the remaining 17 houses, an additional bedroom over a scullery has been added, with waterclosets, &c.

The drainage system, streets and footpaths are also being attended to, and when completed must add immensely, not only to the comfort and health of the occupants of these cottages, but also to the amenities of their entire surroundings.

We congratulate the Company upon the thoroughness with which they entered upon these alterations and improvements, and it now remains for the occupants to show their appreciation of the improvements made in their interest by keeping their homes and surroundings in as clean and sanitary a condition as possible.

Waterclosets.

	1912	1913	1914
Total number of W.C's.	417 ...	491 ...	601
do Ashclosets	1007 ...	1019 ...	1034
do Ashpit Privies	1376 ...	1319 ...	1267

It will be seen from the above comparisons of the last three years that the water carriage system, if not rapidly, is at any rate being introduced when an opportunity presents itself, and that the objectionable ashpit privies are as they ought to be, correspondingly decreasing in number.

Scavenging.—The Scavenging of this District is contracted for at so much per house per annum, and covered carts are supposed to be in use. Complaints are frequently made with respect to the inconvenience and the discomfort caused by the loading of the ash carts in narrow streets, particularly in day time and in windy weather. It is no uncommon experience in coming suddenly round a corner to receive a full charge of dust or ashes, carried along by the wind, in the face as shovelfuls from the ash closets are pitched into the carts. This is anything but a pleasant experience, and the possibilities involved in inhaling some of this noxious matter is too much to speculate upon with unmoved feelings. Children are not unfrequently seen playing in the vicinity of these carts when being loaded. It may not, under the present system of cleansing these receptacles, be an easy matter to avoid, particularly in windy weather, the discomforts indicated without instituting some other method of removal of household refuse, and until the water-carriage system is universally established in the District the daily house to house morning collection of house refuse in galvanized iron bins would be impossible. We should, however, keep steadily before us that this system would be the most satisfactory from every point of view, sanitary and pecuniary particularly.

It is no idle remark to say that these vehicles engaged in scavenging work are the most unsightly that pass along our public streets. There is no reason why it should be so. The accumulated filth of years is allowed to adhere to these carts, and to sensitive people this is offensive to eye and nose. They rumble in day-time along the busy streets clumsily and noisily with their offensive loads as if soliciting the attention of the pedestrians to their unsightliness, and sometimes leaving a trail of ashes behind them.

I would suggest that in future contracts it should be stipulated that these carts should be kept reasonably clean and decent, and that they should be washed at least once a week.

Water Supply.—During the year we had the unpleasant experience of a water famine.

Early in the spring supplies were beginning to show signs of shortage, but fortunately, the month of June, which was the wettest of the year in our District, replenished the reservoirs to some extent and thus carried us into the autumn months without restrictions upon the domestic supply. It was found necessary, however, owing to the dry autumn months, to limit the domestic supply to one hour on alternate mornings. This was a severe restriction, though now absolutely unavoidable, to those who were accustomed to an abundant supply of water, and it naturally caused a considerable amount of public irritation.

Fortunately, so far as our District was concerned, no evil consequences, from a health point of view, could be traced to the inadequacy of the supply although it extended over weeks.

An unlimited supply of pure and wholesome water is an absolute necessity to the community, and every provision should be made by the Water Company to safeguard the interests of the public from a like calamity in the future. The risks are far too great to be allowed to recur again.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

The number of dwelling-houses under inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	The number of representations made to the local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders.	The number of closing orders made.	The number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation.	The general character of the defects found to exist.
222	9	9	97	Defective Floors, Spouting, Paving, Sanitary Conveniences, Drainage, Window Frames, &c.

Notwithstanding the completion and occupation of 75 new houses during the year, including 60 under your Housing Scheme there is still an urgent demand for Workmen's Dwellings.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births and deaths registered during the past year was 558 and 280 respectively, this is equivalent to the rates of 31.52 and 15.82 per 1,000 of the population per annum, estimating, as accurately as possible, the population at 17,700 to the end of June. Both rates are thus in excess of that of the county for this year and the local rates for the previous one. 33 of these deaths occurred outside the District, chiefly at Tanfield Fever Hospital and the Lanchester Workhouse, being residents here originally the District is credited with the deaths. There were no outward transfers for the year.

Infant Mortality rate is satisfactory, in so far as it is less than the previous and the County rate for this year. Deaths from Congenital Debility, &c., this year as always constitute a rather larger per centage than is desirable. This unfortunate rate we are forced to attribute to utter carelessness in many instances, the absence of periodical rest, and the unhygienic surroundings of many women when in the pregnant state. Unfortunately many mothers in districts such as this cannot, owing to the exigencies of the daily work of the toilers, receive time, either day or night, for the physiological amount of rest which nature claims at the child bearing period, therefore, the child comes into the world either deformed, debilitated, or prematurely.

Registered number of Births and Death for each month in the year.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
BIRTHS.	M.	15	16	29	32	28	33		29	17	35	9	22	21	...	286	
	F.	20	18	24	29	14	31		16	24	28	25	20	20	...	269	
Totals		35	34	53	61	42	64		45	41	63	34	42	41	...	555	
DEATHS.		M.	11	8	10	16	16	10		16	8	18	6	10	6	...	135
		F.	4	9	10	9	11	11		15	7	15	10	6	5	...	112
Totals		15	17	20	25	27	21		31	15	33	16	16	11	...	247	

To the above Table 3 inward birth transfers and 33 deaths are to be added, bringing the final totals up to 558 and 280 respectively.

The above Table shows that the

- (a) Male birth-rate is greater than the female birth-rate.
- (b) Male death-rate " " " " death-rate.
- (c) Lowest birth-rate is in the months of February and October.
- (d) Highest " " " " June and September.
- (e) Lowest " " " " 2nd half of the year.
- (f) Lowest death-rate is in the 2nd " " "
- (g) Lowest " " " " month of December.
- (h) Highest " " " " " September.

The following Table gives the averages of the births and deaths, &c., for the County in comparison with those of the District.

				County	Annfield Plain
Birth-rate ...	...	...	...	(per 1000 population)	31.1
Death-rate ...	...	...	...	"	14.9
Zymotic death-rate ...	...	...	...		2.20
Infantile Mortality-rate	...	...	...	(per 1000 births)	134
Small Pox...	...	...	...	(per 1000 population)	nil
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	"	0.22
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	...	...	...	"	0.23
"Fever" (Enteric and Continued)	...	...	...	"	0.11
Measles ...	...	...	...	"	0.17
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	"	0.36
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	"	1.12
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	"	0.92
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	"	0.42
Acute Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	"	2.29

For detailed particulars, see Government Schedules attached.

Table III.
ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

Causes of Death.		Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District.										Total death of Residents or non Residents in the District.
		All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	10	
All Causes	(Certified or Uncertified)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	47	56
1	Enteric Fever ...	...	...	1								1
2	Small-pox ...	...	...							
3	Measles ...	...	...							
4	Scarlet fever ...	...	...							
5	Whooping-cough ...	...	...							
6	Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...							
7	Influenza ...	...	...							
8	Erysipelas ...	...	...							
9	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...							
10	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...							
11	Other tubercular diseases ...	...	...							
12	Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	...							
13	Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...							
14	Meningitis ...	...	...							
15	Organic Heart disease ...	...	...							
16	Bronchitis ...	...	...							
17	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...							
18	Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	...	...							
19	Diarrhea and Enteritis ...	...	...							
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis...	...	...							
21	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...							
21a	Alcoholism ...	...	...							
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	...							
23	Puerperal fever ...	...	...							
24	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...							
25	Congenital Deformity and Malformation, including Premature Birth...	...	...							
26	Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	...	...							
27	Suicides ...	...	...							
28	Other Defined Diseases ...	...	...							
29	Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...							
Totals ...	...	...	...	280	74	17	13	19	20	31	48	58

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous years.

Table I.

YEAR,	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS,				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.			NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Uncorrected Number		Nett. Number	Rate.	Number		Rate.	Number		Rate.	Number		Rate.
		3	4	5		6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	16,200	584		36.05	200	12.34		18	66	113.01	218	13.46		
1910	16,900	574		33.96	187	11.07		17	63	109.75	204	12.07		
1911	16,800	542		32.5	282	16.78		27	102	188.2	309	18.2		
1912	17,000	621		36.81	163	9.6		17	46	73.6	179	10.5		
1913	17,400	517		29.7	247	14.2	1	26	78	150.87	273	15.69		
1914	17,700	558		31.52	247	13.95		33	74	132.6	280	15.82		

Area of District in acres
(land and inland water). } 3,189

Total population at all ages 16,552
Total families or separate occupiers 3,138
Average number of persons per house 5.2 } of 1811.

Table IV.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Infant Mortality.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at Various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 mths.	3 months & under 6 mths.	6 months & under 9 mths.	9 months & under 12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Certified Causes	22	5	4		31	13	9	9	12	74
Uncertified
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)
Convulsions
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea
Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis	...	4	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital Malformations	...	1	2	2	5	...	...	...	...	5
Premature Birth	...	9	2		11	...	...	...	...	11
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	7		1		8	1	1	2	1	13
Other Causes	1				1	1	1	1	1	3
Totals	...	22	5	4	31	13	9	9	12	74

Nett Births in the year $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{legitimate, 536.} \\ \text{illegitimate, 22.} \end{array} \right.$ Nett Deaths in the year of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{legitimate infants, 74.} \\ \text{illegitimate infants, 0.} \end{array} \right.$

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., Etc.

FEBRUARY, 1915.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Notifiable Diseases

reported in each month of the year.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Rainfall	...	66	1.48	2.18	.59	1.18	4.44	1.80	1.42	1.75	2.16	3.58	3.98	25.22 (inch's)	
Diphtheria	...	4	2	5	3	4	1		2			1	21	6	
Enteric	...					2							2	1	
Erysipelas	...	1	2		4		1			3	1		12		
Scarlatina	...	1	7	7	24	10	1	4	7	6	12	6	7	92	5
TOTALS	...	6	11	12	32	14	3	4	9	6	15	7	8	127	12

4

It will be noticed in the above Table that the greater number of infectious diseases were notified in the first six months of the year, the rainfall being much less than in the latter months, and that the month of June, the wettest month in the year, and the month of April, the driest, had respectively the fewest and the greatest number of diseases notified.

The inference therefore, is, that a dry season is more likely to be productive of infectious diseases than a wet one.

Diphtheria.—There are 10 less this year than last, and the deaths correspondingly less. Greencroft (Within) having 9 cases to its credit, while both other parishes had 6 each. This is above the average for the county.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases only were reported for the year, one each in Collierley and Greencroft (Within). This is much less than the average for the county.

Erysipelas.—12 cases were reported as compared with 18 in the previous year. All of these were of a mild character.

Scarlatina.—92 cases were notified as compared with 49 in the previous year. The greatest number were reported in the months of April, May and October, New Kyo area having the greatest number. Fortunately the disease was of a mild character. The rate exceeds that of the county very slightly.

**Statement of Notifications under the Public Health
(Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1914.**

		AGES.										
		0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65 and upwards		
Phthisis (Pulmonary) ...	M.		1	5	6	6	4	1			23	41
	F.			4	6	4	3	1			18	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	M.	4	2		1		1				8	18
	F.		3	7							10	
Totals		4	6	16	13	10	8	2			59	

The above Table gives the age distribution of Tuberculous disease in the district. The Pulmonary forms are, according to the Table, more in evidence than the other varieties, and in males more so than in females.

Vide, Annual Report for 1913 for methods of supervision and treatment of Tuberculous persons in the District.

The nearest Tuberculosis Dispensary is in Stanley.

Non-Notifiable Diseases.

Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis.—21 deaths occurred from the above diseases, 13 of these in children under one year. This is 3 more than in the previous year. Although the autumn months were oppressively warm and the supply of water very limited at the time, we had no severe epidemic of intestinal troubles in children.

Whooping Cough.—10 deaths occurred from this disease, 9 of these in children under 2 years of age, which shows that the younger the child the greater the danger. The disease, although not epidemic in character, was most prevalent in the month of April.

Measles—Comparatively few cases of this disease occurred during the year, unlike the previous one, and were of so mild a character that no deaths occurred.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent in by medical practitioners in the District for examination during the year, in accordance with the arrangements made between the C.C. and the Durham C. of Medicine.

	Number of Specimens Submitted.	RESULTS.		
		Positive.	Negative.	Inconclusive.
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	1
Phthisis (sputum)	...	34	6	28
TOTALS	...	35	6	29

Bacteriological examination of blood, sputum and excretions of patients is of the greatest value in clearing up the diagnosis of doubtful cases of certain infectious diseases.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						Total Cases notified in each Parish,	Total Cases removed to Hospital,	
	At all Ages,	Under 1	and under 5 years.	and under 15 years.	and under 25 years.	and under 45 years.			
At Ages—Years.									
Small-pox	...								
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	...								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	21	1	4	13	3	1	6	9	6
Erysipelas	12	3	40	1	3	2	6	3	3
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	44	4	1	61	5	26
Typhus fever	...	...	...						81
Enteric fever	...	2		1	1		1	1	2
Relapsing fever (R)	...					2			
Continued fever (C)	...	2							2
Puerperal fever	...								
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...								
Poliomyelitis	...								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	41	18	4	1	9	12	17	5	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...			5	7	1	1	4	8
Totals	...	188	8	50	75	24	24	104	57
									96

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield }
 Sanatorium at Maiden Law }
 Lanchester Joint Hospital Board,

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

1.--Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	18	NONE	NONE
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	38	5	NONE
Workplaces	—	—	—
Total	56	5	NONE

2--Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of of Prosecutions 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H. M. Inspector. 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	NONE	NONE
Total	5	5	NONE	NONE

3.--HOME WORK.

NIL.

4.--Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131 at the end of the year.							Number.
	1						2
Tailoring	3
Millinery	2
Shoemaking	4
Blacksmiths	3
Joinery	7
Retail Bakehouses	7
Saddlery	4
Total number of Workshops on Register							30

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., Etc.,

February, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.

